

Pollution in Yamuna

4607. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Apex Court has expressed shock over the failure of Delhi Administration to clean Yamuna, which has become a drain in the Capital, as reported in the Hindustan Times dated 11th April 2001;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has also expressed its serious concern that Government are unable to supply clean water to Delhi citizens which is their Constitutional right; and

(c) whether Government would be able to make Yamuna pollution free/clean up within two years' time, given by the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Supreme Court has expressed its serious concern over the delay in implementation of the Integrated Action Plan submitted by Government through an affidavit dated 8.11.2000 to clean the river Yamuna. The Apex Court has directed the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Government of India through the Ministry of Urban Development to file separate affidavits indicating the steps to be taken to ensure that the Integrated Action Plan is implemented by 31.3.2003. The Integrated Action Plan consists of the following major activities:

- (i) Increase in sewage treatment capacity
- (ii) Sewering of regularized unauthorized colonies
- (iii) Refurbishing of the trunk sewerage system
- (iv) Removal/ relocation of jhuggies from the Yamuna river banks and the drains
- (v) Construction of 15 common effluent treatment plants

The Delhi Jal Board had earlier projected that a capacity of 512 mgd will be in place by 31.03.2003. This has now been revised to 622 mgd by the same date. This capacity will be available against the projected requirement of 630 mgd of total wastewater including the industrial effluents expected to be generated by 31.03.2003.

Out of 567 regularized unauthorized colonies, sewerage work will be completed in 490 such colonies by 31.03.2003.

As for the refurbishing of trunk sewers, work in 81 kms. out of the total 91 kms. length will be completed by 31.03.2003.

The number of jhuggies on the river banks and drains has been revised by the Slum and JJ Wing of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi from 62000 to approximately 75000. The removal/relocation of these jhuggies will be dependent on the availability of land and resources.

All the proposed 15 common effluent treatment plants presently under construction will be completed by December, 2002.

Pollution by cement factories and refineries

4608. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether environment is being polluted by the Cement factories and refineries in the public and private sectors;

(b) if so, the names of the factories where pollution checking plants have been installed during the last three years and the amount spent thereon; and

(c) in which Cement factories and refineries pollution control plants are planned to be installed and by when such schemes would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) There are 113 large cement plants and 15 oil refineries in the country. Out of 113 cement plants, 109 plants have adequate pollution control equipment; one plant viz. M/s. Jammu and Kashmir Cement Ltd. is in the process of installing the pollution control equipment and three plants are closed. All the refineries have set up pollution control devices.

According to an estimate, for a one million tonne per annum capacity cement plant, the cost of pollution control equipment is approximately Rupees 15 crores. Thus, the amount spent on pollution